

Oral Fluid Testing – Testing With Dignity™



The Oral Fluid Lead Test Kit

Oral Fluid Testing: New Technology for a New Century

EPA # AR 101011 for lead testing

Human Oral Fluid tests are noninvasive, reliable tests designed as the Gold Standard in diagnostic testing — for government agencies, businesses, and families. Oral Fluid has been described as an "ultra-filtrate of plasma". Oral Fluid testing has recently been well established as a diagnostic tool in detecting many of the molecules that are found in plasma, and at levels equivalent to those found in blood. Therefore, by Oral Fluid testing, one can obtain similar information on the status of a person as one can obtain from whole blood, without the need to collect a specimen invasively.

Oral Fluid had long been regarded as one of the prodigal children of biological specimens. However, for the past two decades, there has been a steadily increasing interest in the use of Oral Fluid in pharmacokinetic studies of chemicals and drugs in general and in therapeutic monitoring in a variety of clinical situations. In recent years, this interest has extended to the measurement of 10 drugs of abuse plus Steroids and toxic heavy metals, e.g., lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic, beryllium and others, detectable in Oral Fluid.

The advantages of Oral Fluid as the specimen of choice have been identified by psychiatrists studying methadone treatment, investigators involved in therapy for HIV-infected patients and in anticonvulsant treatment for epileptics, and by laboratory directors involved in drug abuse monitoring. Among the advantages cited are the following:

- Patients are spared the discomfort of repeated venous punctures
- No risk of anemia, infection, or thrombosis
- Minimal staff training for collection lowers total costs
- Repeated monitoring of toxic chemical levels leads to more accurate prescriptions and fewer side effects

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Advantages of Oral Fluid Testing

Innovative organizations are implementing successful testing programs centered around Oral Fluid sample collection. Entities implementing Oral Fluid lab based testing reap multiple and varied benefits:

Ease of Administration

Oral Fluid specimen collection is quick and easy. AMSTI will train your personnel to:

- Complete the Donor Consent Form
- Collect the Oral Fluid specimens
- Maintain strict specimen chain-of-custody controls
- Arrange for specimen shipment
- Implement AMSTI's Zero-Liability Methodology
- Utilize proper Donor-Collector etiquette

Should you prefer to use our collection team, arrangements can be made to suit your needs. Our goal at AMSTI is to meet or exceed our client's expectations.

Economic Advantages

Advancements in testing technologies have made Oral Fluid testing much more cost effective than other testing methods in use today. Savings may be achieved in several ways:

- Third party collection fees are eliminated by using your own personnel trained to collect samples.
- Computer or handheld wireless Chain of Custody removes any chance of errors in the collection process.
- Oral Fluid is not considered a biohazard, thus disposal costs are substantially reduced.

Time Savings

Sizeable direct savings result from reduced donor wait time. There is no need to coax children or parents into subjecting themselves to painful and traumatic blood test. Oral Fluid specimen collection is quick and easy. An experienced, trained collector can collect over 25 specimens per hour—a little less than 2 ½ minutes per donor!

Time is saved not only in the specimen collection process as presented above, but also in the results turnaround time. Test results are completed and returned within 48 to 72 hours. All results are confirmed via our ELAN DRc ICP Mass Spectrometer technology.

Reliability

The capabilities of the DRCE in regards to lead analysis allow detection limits as low as 17 ppt (parts per trillion) and confident capabilities as low as 30 ppt. Lead is currently measured in ug/dL or micrograms per deciliter. [1 ug/dl = 10 ppm (parts per million).] Simply put, the instrument is well within the capabilities or being able to produce an accuracy well over 1,000 times the current accuracy used, even after sample dilution and instrument error.

The accuracy of the ELAN DRCE ICP Mass Spectrometer are well beyond the ability of a graphite furnace Atomic Absorption machine and very far beyond the abilities of a lead (Pb) electrode, the current standard equipment for blood lead analysis. These machines, in most cases of low blood lead of children in the single digit capabilities, have a consistent error of between 33% and 50% at best. This range of error is not widely accepted in the area of biological statistics <5% error and especially the medical statistical range of error which is <1%.



Using our unique test kit, Specimen is kept in a Sterile container from collection to Laboratory.

Testing With Dignity™ - Oral Fluid Testing

Using Oral Fluid ELAN DRCE ICP Mass Spectrometer testing, one obtains similar information on the status of a person as one can obtain from whole blood. Given the advantages of oral fluids testing for toxic metals:

- ease of administration
- economic advantages
- time savings
- reliability
- psychological advantages

It is easy to understand why there has been a steadily increasing interest in the use of Oral Fluid in studies of toxic chemicals, drugs in general, and in therapeutic monitoring in a variety of clinical situations. Oral Fluid ELAN DRCE ICP Mass Spectrometer is indeed a new technology for a new century.

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